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BOROUGH



SWINDON

of

# **Annual Report**

of the

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1954**



**Report of the  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1954**

**Report of the  
PRINCIPAL BOROUGH  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR 1954**

**Report on the  
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES  
FOR THE YEAR 1954**

**Copy of Report of the  
AREA MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR 1954**



**BOROUGH OF SWINDON**  
**COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF**  
**as at 31st December, 1954.**

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**HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR**

(Alderman ARTHUR MADGE BENNETT)

**Chairman:** Alderman N. V. TOZE

**Vice-Chairman:** Councillor L. C. MOBEY

**MEMBERS:**

Alderman	Mrs. E. M. SIMPKINS	Councillor	W. J. DAVIS
"	M. WEBB	"	J. GRETRY
Councillor	E. ADAMS	"	R. S. J. HONEY
"	A. T. E. BECK	"	Mrs. L. R. LOCK
"	F. E. BISHOP	"	L. J. NEWMAN
"	A. E. CAMDEN	"	A. H. POPE
"	Miss V. L. M. CARTER	"	Mrs. K. M. TOMKINS
"	Miss C. M. GAPPER		

**TOWN CLERK**

D. MURRAY JOHN, Esq., O.B.E., B.A.

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

**31st December, 1954**

Medical Officer of Health	-	JAMES URQUHART, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	- -	C. W. SHEARER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	- -	S. B. S. SMITH, L.M.S.S.A., D.T.M. & H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	-	H. A. BANWELL, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.
Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector	- -	R. A. LAW, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	- -	P. M. DALE, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.
		L. HOPES, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I.
		I. JONES, Cert. S.I.J.B., C.M. & F.I. (commenced 4-10-54)
		E. W. KNOWLES, Cert.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I. (terminated 5-6-54)
		H. PHILLIPS, Cert. S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I. (commenced 15-6-54)
		J. M. A. FABEL, Cert. S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., C.M. & F.I. (terminated 19-4-54)

Pupil Sanitary Inspectors	-	R. HAYWARD (commenced 18-10-54) T. C. POPE (commenced 25-10-54)
Dental Surgeon	-	-
Dental Attendant	-	Miss J. MITCHELL (terminated 29-5-54)
Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse	-	Miss W. R. BURROWS (terminated 22-8-54)
Health Visitors and School Nurses	-	Mrs. B. E. BELL Mrs. E. A. BUTT Miss A. H. HAWKINS Miss W. PARKINS Mrs. M. A. POWELL Miss C. J. THORN Mrs. J. D. WALL
Domiciliary Midwives	-	Miss J. E. BLOCK Miss M. M. KENNEDY (commenced 8-12-54) Mrs. M. MAYNARD Mrs. H. M. MORTIMORE Miss N. NEAL Mrs. D. M. RAYMENT (commenced 29-9-54) Mrs. G. M. TAYLOR Mrs. Z. BARRINGTON EVANS (terminated 30-9-54)
Matron, Day Nursery	-	Mrs. A. DAVIES, S. R.N.
District Nurses	-	Miss E. E. M. BARKER Mrs. A. B. BUSHNELL Mrs. E. M. EGGERS Mrs. F. HISCOCKS (commenced 1-3-54) Miss E. M. HULBERT Mrs. V. M. SELLWOOD Miss L. M. SHEPPARD
Administrative Assistant	-	J. W. DAY
Senior Clerks	-	J. R. PELL Miss L. M. RAWLINGS

Assistant Clerks - - A. H. BUTLER (terminated 24-4-54)  
 F. C. MOSS  
 W. H. PAUL  
 T. C. POPE (terminated 23-10-54)  
 Miss U. G. BOFFIN (commenced 13-9-54)  
 Miss A. FISHER (terminated 11-9-54)  
 Mrs. E. E. C. FURLEY  
 Mrs. E. M. MELHUIISH (terminated 9-6-54)  
 Miss P. A. MOLDEN  
 Mrs. J. PEYTON  
 Miss K. M. S. SHERGOLD  
 (commenced 13-9-54)  
 Miss D. K. TOPP (commenced 25-10-54)  
 Miss M. A. TUCKER  
 Mrs. V. M. VOCKINGS

Rodent Operators - - B. H. GARDINER (commenced 26-4-54)  
 H. SNELL  
 A. C. MOLE (terminated 11-3-54)



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**To the Mayor,**

**Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Swindon.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1954.

The report has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health Circular 170/47.

Although this report deals only with the work of the department as the Local Sanitary Authority of a Municipal Borough, I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, for his permission to append the report on Part III Services under the National Health Service Act 1946 which are delegated to the Swindon Area Sub-Committee.

The report on the School Health Services in the Borough is included as a separate report. The purpose of incorporating these three reports under one cover is to enable you to get an overall picture of the health of the Borough.

As the programmes of expansion of the Borough under The Town Development Act continues to progress the services provided by the health department have to extend to cover the increasing population. During the year under review the building at Penhill estate has made rapid progress and at 31st December 1954 it housed a total of 4,200 persons in 1340 houses. Included in the total were some 254 families comprising 880 persons who had come from London Boroughs.

Although the building of new houses and the rehousing of families from bad property is progressing the problem of slum clearance still has to be faced. In the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, reference is made to the survey of slum property that has to be made in connection with the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

The report under this Act has to be submitted to the Minister in August 1955 and the policy with regard to the rehousing of families from the unfit houses will then have to be considered from all angles.

Last year I referred in my report to the difficulties of recruitment of Sanitary Inspectors. During the year there has been no improvement in the position and unless some solution can be found, the work of the department must suffer. The work at the Abattoir necessitates the presence of two sanitary inspectors during all slaughtering time and so puts a severe strain on the resources of the department. Again the inspection and reports on unfit houses involve many hours of sanitary inspectors' time and with the present staff it will be impossible to maintain routine inspections if the work at the slaughterhouse and the duties laid upon the department under the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts are to be met. During the year two pupil Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed and as they gain knowledge and experience they should help considerably in the work of the department.

It will be seen from the statistical tables included in the various sections of the report that the health of the town compares favourably with that for the country as a whole.

It is generally accepted that the infant mortality rate is a reliable indication of the health and social conditions of a community. It is gratifying therefore to report that during 1954 the Swindon infant mortality rate of 16.02 is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough and compares with the rate of 25.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

Efforts are being made towards reducing accidents in the home which each year levy a substantial toll on life and limb.

On 16-12-53 a Voluntary Home Safety Committee was set up in Swindon and has done excellent work in the educating of the householder in the provision of propaganda. This Committee works in close liaison with the Health Department even to sharing the costs of propaganda materials. The Health Department also maintains close liaison with the Casualty Department of the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee and home accidents reported by them are followed up by visits to the home to ensure that accident hazards are avoided in the future.

During the year I have again to record my indebtedness to the other departments of the Council and to the many outside agencies and voluntary bodies who have so willingly co-operated with the Health Department.

It also gives me great pleasure to thank all the members of the staff for their continued loyalties and support and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and enthusiasm in all matters pertaining to the work of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES URQUHART.

CIVIC OFFICES,  
SWINDON.

Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLIES

During the year many complaints were received mostly from the Penhill Estate regarding the quality of the water supply from the town mains. The complaints were all of the same nature, namely brown discolouration of the water which was depositing on fittings and utensils and in some instances the water was said to have an offensive smell.

Five such samples sent to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis were not regarded as satisfactory for a public supply because of a heavy sediment of iron and lime compounds. It was found that the houses from which the complaints arose were either drawing water from the end of a main or from a section of new main in which the water was not freely circulating because of few houses being connected to it.

Repeated flushing of the mains solved the problem and in the case of the new mains no complaints were received after sufficient houses were connected to ensure free circulation of water.

Some 22162 houses, with a population of 69760 have water laid on from the public mains.

Twenty-three dwellings, housing seventy-one people are supplied from stand-pipes, and a further eleven dwellings, housing forty-two people, are not connected to the public mains.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS — 1954

Area of the Borough (acres)	-	-	-	6,361
Estimated total population mid-year 1954	-	-	-	69,760
Live Births—Legitimate	-	-	-	1,068
Illegitimate	-	-	-	55
			TOTAL ———	1,123
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	16.08
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	0.33
Stillbirths	-	-	-	23
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	-	-	20.48
Deaths at all ages—Males	-	-	-	404
Females	-	-	-	355
			TOTAL ———	759
Death rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	10.88
Deaths from cancer	-	-	-	135
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	65
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	8
Deaths from Influenza	-	-	-	2
Deaths from vascular and heart diseases	-	-	-	373
Deaths from infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	—
Deaths from all other causes	-	-	-	176
			TOTAL ———	759
Deaths of infants under the age of 1 year	-	-	-	18

## BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

The following table gives the number of legitimate and illegitimate live births in Swindon during 1953 and 1954.

	1953			1954		
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate -	550	540	1090	555	513	1068
Illegitimate -	31	27	58	34	21	55
<b>TOTALS -</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>1148</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1123</b>

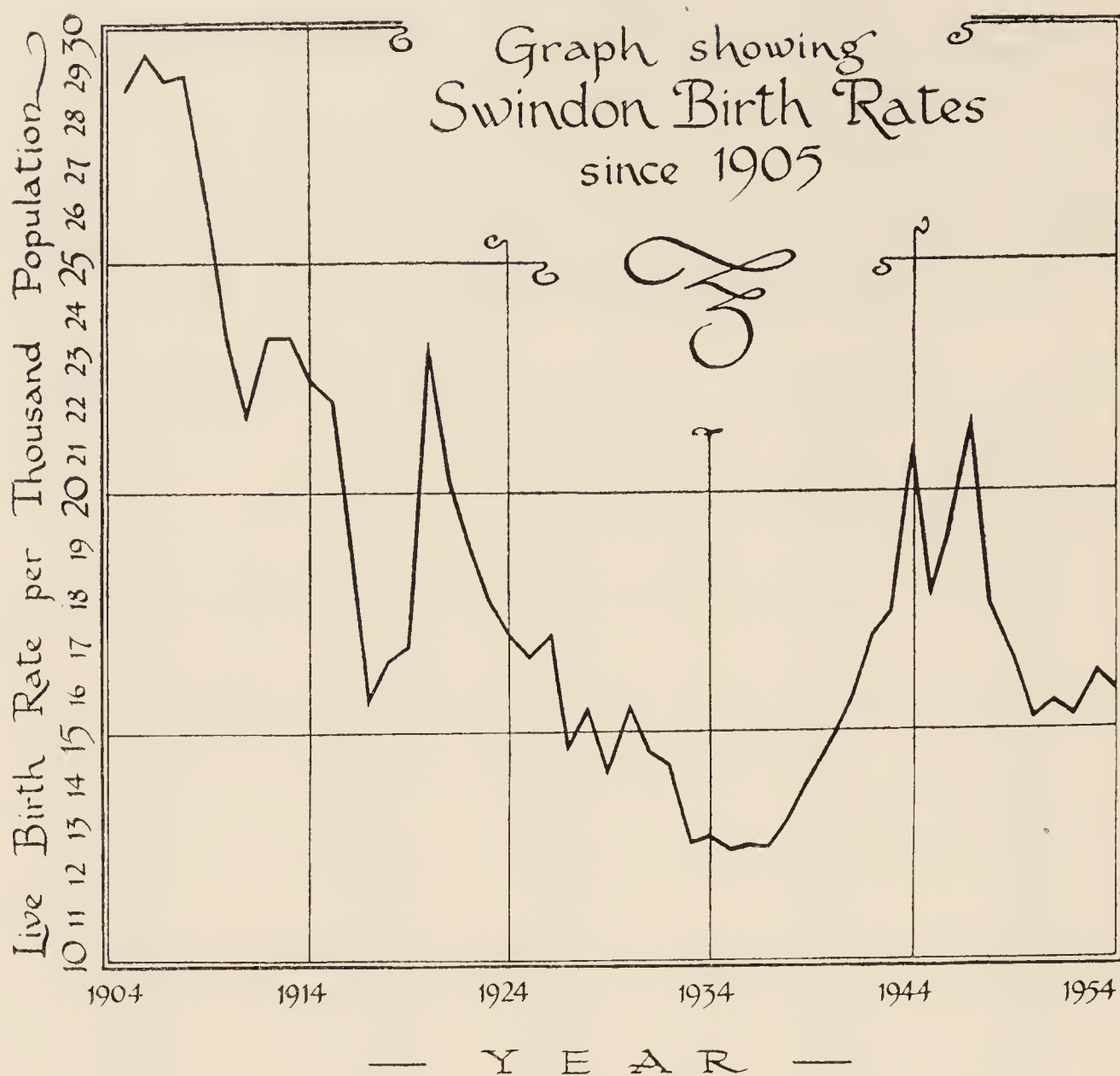
The illegitimate births formed 4.89% of the total live births in Swindon during 1954 and 5.05% during 1953.

The Swindon live birth rate per 1,000 population was 16.08 during 1954 as compared with 16.6 during 1953.

The trend in birth rates in Swindon since 1904 is illustrated by the following table and graph:—

**TABLE SHOWING SWINDON LIVE BIRTH RATES FROM 1904 to 1954, with COMPARATIVE LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES SINCE 1931:—**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Swindon Birth Rate</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Swindon Birth Rate</b>	<b>England &amp; Wales: Birth Rate</b>
1904	30.0	1931	14.5	15.8
1905	28.4	1932	14.3	15.3
1906	29.4	1933	12.5	14.4
1907	28.8	1934	12.7	14.8
1908	28.9	1935	12.3	14.7
1909	26.5	1936	12.4	14.8
1910	23.4	1937	12.4	14.9
1911	21.6	1938	13.1	15.1
1912	23.4	1939	14.0	15.0
1913	23.4	1940	14.8	14.6
1914	22.5	1941	15.8	13.9
1915	22.0	1942	17.0	15.6
1916	18.9	1943	17.6	16.2
1917	15.5	1944	21.0	17.7
1918	16.5	1945	17.7	15.9
1919	16.9	1946	19.2	19.2
1920	23.3	1947	21.7	20.5
1921	20.3	1948	17.6	17.9
1922	19.0	1949	16.3	16.7
1923	17.8	1950	15.1	15.8
1924	17.1	1951	15.6	15.5
1925	16.6	1952	15.2	15.3
1926	17.1	1953	16.6	15.5
1927	14.5	1954	16.08	15.2
1928	15.6			
1929	14.0			
1930	15.7			



Still births number 23 in Swindon during 1954 compared with 24 during 1953. They were made up as follows:—

	1953			1954		
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate -	12	11	23	10	13	23
Illegitimate -	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS -	13	11	24	10	13	23

The stillbirth rates per 1,000 population for the last five years in Swindon and England and Wales are:—

YEAR	STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION	
	Swindon	England & Wales
1950	0.45	0.37
1951	0.30	0.36
1952	0.33	0.35
1953	0.35	0.35
1954	0.33	0.36



## DEATHS

The causes of death are analysed in the table on page 12.

It will be seen that there is a substantial decrease in the number of deaths due to tuberculosis. Throughout the country it is generally found that deaths from tuberculosis are declining. The explanation of this is that, with modern drugs and methods of treatment, tuberculous patients are being cured or having the disease arrested. It does not mean that the number of cases of the disease discovered is in any way decreasing.

Of the total deaths no fewer than 373 are attributed to disease of the heart and circulatory system while malignant disease accounted for 135 deaths. It will be noted that there were 22 deaths from cancer of the lung or bronchus as compared with 27 in 1953. Again as in 1953 all those deaths occurred in males.

Only a very small number of deaths are attributed to infectious diseases and influenza only accounted for two deaths as compared with 9 in the previous year.

From the table on page 14 it will be seen that there has been no marked alteration in the proportion of deaths in the various age groups.

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH IN SWINDON during 1954 and 1953

				1954		1953	
Cause of Death				Male	Female	Total	Total
Tuberculosis—respiratory	-	-	-	7	1	8	14
Tuberculosis—other	-	-	-	1	3	4	2
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	—	—	—	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	-	-	-	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	—	1	2
Measles	-	-	-	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	—	—	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	14	8	22	20
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	22	—	22	27
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	1	15	16	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	—	2	2	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	-	-	39	34	73	76
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	4	2	6	7
Diabetes	-	-	-	1	3	4	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	45	60	105	89
Coronary disease, Angina	-	-	-	59	26	85	75
Hypertension with Heart disease	-	-	-	17	10	27	23
Other Heart Diseases	-	-	-	67	89	156	152
Other Circulatory diseases	-	-	-	18	13	31	29
Influenza	-	-	-	1	1	2	9
Bronchitis	-	-	-	21	6	27	41
Pneumonia	-	-	-	12	16	28	61
Other diseases of Respiratory system	-	-	-	9	1	10	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	6	1	7	14
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	1	4	5	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	2	2	4	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	6	—	6	13
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	—	1	1	2
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	—	5	5	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-	35	46	81	73
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	5	2	7	10
Other accidents	-	-	-	5	1	6	6
Suicide	-	-	-	5	3	8	6
Homicide and Operations of war	-	-	-	—	—	—	3
TOTAL				404	355	759	802

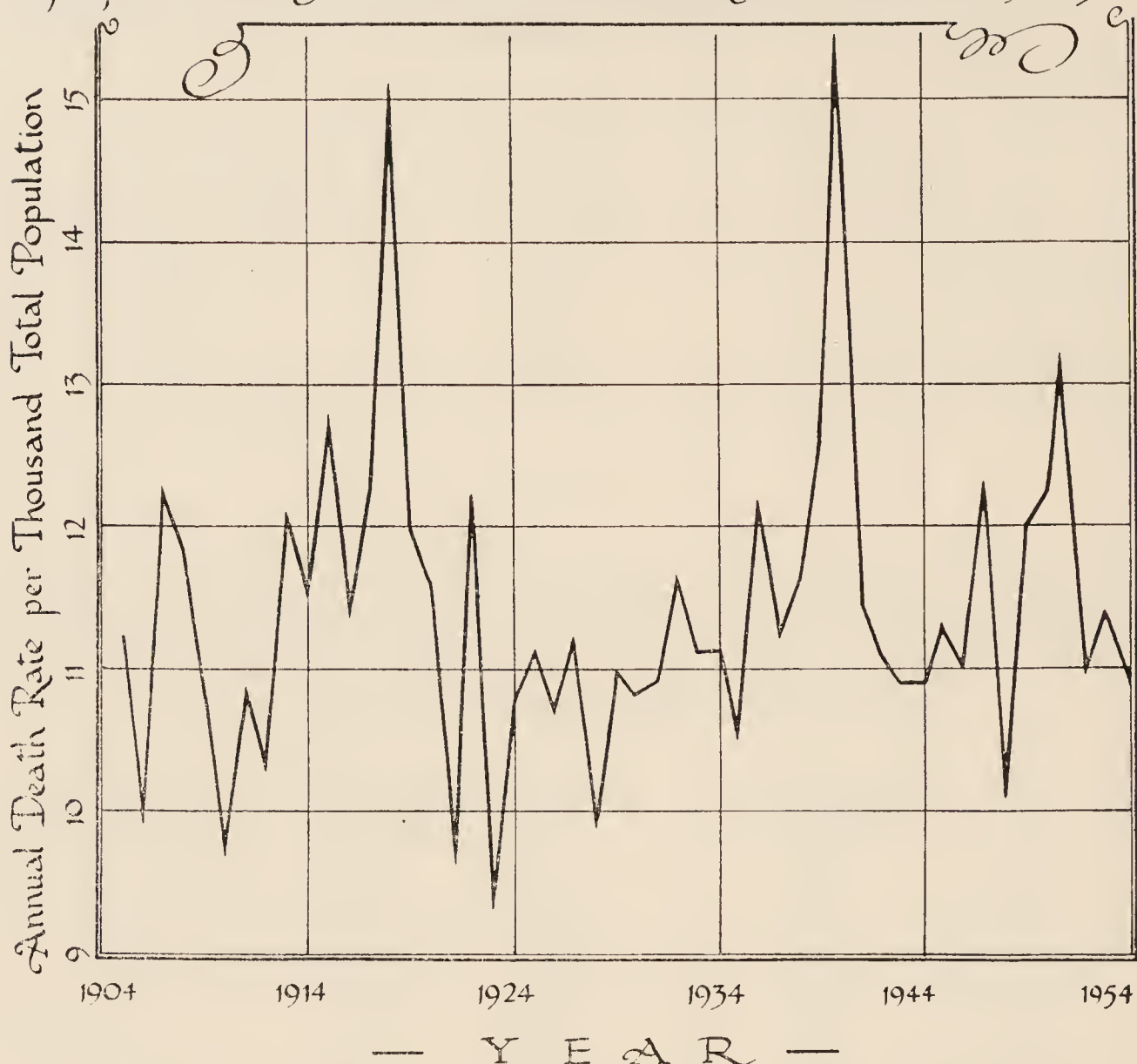
The following tables give the death rates per thousand population from various causes, in Swindon and England and Wales during 1954: —

CAUSE OF DEATH	DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION	
	Swindon	England & Wales
All Causes - -	10.88	11.3
Tuberculosis - -	0.17	0.18
Influenza - -	0.03	0.04
Acute Poliomyelitis - -	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia - -	0.40	0.41

**TABLE SHOWING SWINDON DEATH RATES FROM 1904 TO 1954 WITH COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES SINCE 1941**

Year	Death Rate Swindon	Year	Death Rate Swindon	Death Rate England & Wales
1904	12.5	1929	11.0	
1905	11.2	1930	10.8	
1906	9.9	1931	10.9	
1907	12.3	1932	11.7	
1908	11.8	1933	11.1	
1909	10.8	1934	11.1	
1910	9.7	1935	10.5	
1911	10.9	1936	12.2	
1912	10.3	1937	11.2	
1913	12.1	1938	11.6	
1914	11.5	1939	12.5	
1915	12.8	1940	15.4	
1916	11.3	1941	11.4	13.5
1917	12.3	1942	11.1	12.3
1918	15.1	1943	10.9	13.0
1919	12.0	1944	10.9	12.7
1920	11.6	1945	11.3	12.6
1921	9.6	1946	11.0	12.0
1922	12.2	1947	12.3	12.0
1923	9.3	1948	10.1	10.8
1924	10.8	1949	12.0	11.7
1925	11.1	1950	12.2	11.6
1926	10.7	1951	13.2	12.5
1927	11.2	1952	10.9	11.3
1928	9.9	1953	11.6	11.4
		1954	10.88	11.3

Graph showing ' Swindon Death Rates since 1905



The number of deaths and the death rate per 1,000 population from the main causes of death are given in the following table:—

Year	Circulatory and Heart diseases		Respiratory diseases		Tuberculosis		Cancer	
	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000	No.	Rate per 1000
1950	437	6.35	74	1.07	32	0.47	135	1.96
1951	429	6.25	112	1.63	20	0.29	121	1.76
1952	367	5.33	75	1.09	15	0.22	131	1.90
1953	368	5.33	107	1.55	16	0.23	145	2.10
1954	404	5.79	65	0.93	12	0.17	135	1.93

The ages at death of Swindon people are given in the following table:—

Year	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	Over 65	Total
1953	21	6	9	46	207	513	802
1954	18	2	4	34	192	509	759



## MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year there was one maternal death which gives a death rate of 0.89 per 1000 births as compared with a figure of 0.69 per 1000 births for England and Wales.

It will be seen from the table given below that during the past five years the maternal deaths have not exceeded two per year. Even one maternal death per year gives us a higher rate than for England and Wales as a whole and unless no maternal deaths occur the number of births is such that the Swindon rate will be higher than that of the country as a whole.

The one maternal death occurred in rather tragic circumstances where the parents attempted to conceal the pregnancy and birth. No preparations were made for the birth of the child and no medical or nursing aid was called. In fact it was only after the death of the mother and the discovery of the body of the child at Coate Water that the tragedy came to light. There is no reason to doubt if the mother had had medical care both she and child would have survived.

The maternal mortality rates per 1,000 total births for Swindon and England and Wales since 1950 are shown in the following table:—

YEAR	MATERNAL DEATHS IN SWINDON	RATE PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS SWINDON	RATE PER 1000 TOTAL BIRTHS ENGLAND & WALES
1950	0	0	0.86
1951	2	1.83	0.79
1952	2	1.87	0.72
1953	2	1.77	0.76
1954	1	0.89	0.69

## INFANT MORTALITY

18 infants under the age of one year died in Swindon during 1954, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 16.02 per 1000 live births. This compares very favourably with the infant mortality rates for England and Wales of 25.5 and is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

The Infant Mortality Rate is generally regarded as a reliable index of the social conditions and of the standard of infant welfare generally and the achievement of this low record figure is most gratifying. It will again be seen from the table given below that the largest number of infant deaths fall into category of congenital defects, malformations and prematurity. Much research is taking place into the factors which lead to deaths from these causes, but the present state of medical knowledge offers no great hope of any dramatic solution to the problem.

The causes of deaths in infants under one year of age during 1953 and 1954 were:—

				1953	1954
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	5	5
Diarrhoea, Enteritis and other internal disorders				2	1
Congenital defects, Malformations and Prematurity	-	-	-	10	8
Other causes	-	-	-	4	4
				<hr/> 21	<hr/> 18

The table below gives figures of Infant Mortality during the last 5 years for Swindon and England and Wales:—

YEAR	RATE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS			
	Swindon			ENGLAND & WALES
	NEONATAL RATE	RATE-AGE 4 wks.-1 yr.	MORTALITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
1950	17.3	6.7	24.0	29.8
1951	20.5	5.6	26.1	29.6
1952	11.4	4.8	16.2	27.6
1953	11.3	7.0	18.3	26.8
1954	10.7	5.3	16.0	25.5

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In 1954 there was no outbreak of influenza as had occurred in the previous year and only 2 persons were registered as having died from this disease.

From the table on page 22 it will be seen that as expected, there was a low incidence of measles. If the biennial cycle of incidence of this disease is maintained there will undoubtedly be a large number of cases of measles in 1955.

The number of notified cases of scarlet fever was identical to that of 1953, the disease maintaining its mild form with hospitalisation being necessary only for social reasons or to prevent the spread of infection through food handlers.

The number of cases of whooping cough in 1954 remained at 200 and again no deaths were reported from this condition.

### **Diphtheria.**

The fifth successive year passed without there being a case of diphtheria in Swindon and now a decade has passed without a death from this disease. This happy state of affairs is due to the immunisation of our children and it cannot be expected to continue unless parents take advantage of this simple and painless procedure. Constant propaganda and persuasion is still required to convince parents of the necessity for immunisation and there remains a small hard resistant core who refuse or neglect the advice altogether.

It is even more unfortunate that relatively few people heed the advice to have their children vaccinated against smallpox although the outstanding value of this harmless procedure has been demonstrated over so many years.



**TABLE GIVING THE INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN  
SWINDON AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DURING  
THE LAST TWENTY YEARS**

YEAR	NO. OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA	NO. OF DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA	YEAR	NO. OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA	NO. OF DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA
1935	153	9	1945	15	0
1936	101	12	1946	15	0
1937	31	3	1947	9	0
1938	38	0	1948	6	0
1939	42	2	1949	1	0
1940	150	15	1950	0	0
1941	105	6	1951	0	0
1942	25	0	1952	0	0
1943	39	1	1953	0	0
1944	74	2	1954	0	0

### **Food Poisoning and Dysentery.**

Six cases of Food Poisoning and Dysentery were notified during the year. The households in each instance were visited by a medical officer of the department and enquiries made in an attempt to trace the source of infection. Advice was given as to the methods of preventing the spread of infection and the families were visited and faecal specimens examined bacteriologically until they were free from infection.

Food Poisoning will remain a problem until each person who handles food shows a greater sense of food hygiene. The expected Food and Drugs Act will put more power in the hands of the local authority in the enforcement of clean food standards, but the main responsibility will always remain with those who actually handle the food. Employers and employees must co-operate, the former to provide a clean environment for all processes of food production and sale from the store room for raw materials to the wrapping and handing to the customer.



## Tuberculosis.

During 1954 there was a drop to 50 in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and a slight increase to 18 in the number of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in Swindon.

AGE PERIOD	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
Under 5	1	2	1	2	6
5—10	2	1	1	2	6
10—15	3	—	—	2	5
15—20	1	2	—	1	4
20—25	6	2	1	1	10
25—30	3	1	—	—	4
30—40	5	2	1	4	12
40—50	6	3	—	—	9
50—60	5	—	—	—	5
Over 60	5	—	1	1	7
TOTALS	37	13	5	13	68

The high percentage of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in non-notified cases supports the theory that far too many people, because of their ignorance of the true facts, are afraid to submit themselves for an x-ray because of the suspected result. The infective pool is made up of persons of all age groups and it is particularly urged that middle aged and elderly persons, so often resistant to new ideas, should attend the mass radiography unit and especially so if they have a cough, often erroneously attributed to smoking or bronchitis, but which is in reality tuberculosis, (and is being spread to their children and their grandchildren, often with fatal results for the latter).

YEAR	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS				ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS			
	Primary cases notified	Case rate per 1000 popn.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 popn.	Cases notified	Case rate per 1000 popn.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 popn.
1950	84	1.22	31	.45	106	1.54	32	.46
1951	64	0.93	18	.26	86	1.25	20	.29
1952	49	0.71	13	.19	62	.90	15	.22
1953	101	1.46	14	.20	112	1.62	16	.23
1954	50	0.72	8	.11	68	.97	12	.17

Apart from the above notifications 36 cases of Tuberculosis in Swindon became known to the Health Department through death returns, posthumous notifications, transfers from other areas, etc.

Of the deaths which occurred during 1954, 11.76% occurred in non-notified cases.

The Mass Radiography Unit was not stationed in Swindon during 1954 and this undoubtedly is the reason for the notification of fewer primary cases.

It is expected that the unit will function here next year when it is also planned to commence the B.C.G. vaccination campaign for school leavers. It is to be hoped that as many people as possible will participate in both campaigns for it is only with the co-operation of the public that this infectious disease can be eradicated. Those persons suspicious of their state of health are particularly urged to attend for an x-ray so benefiting themselves by catching the infection in its early and treatable form, and of even greater importance, preventing its spread to their workmates, their families or others with whom they are in contact, including those who eat or drink the food they handle.

### **Whooping Cough and Measles.**

The low incidence of measles as foreshadowed in the 1953 report became a fact and there were no deaths. A large incidence may confidently be predicted for 1955.

The whooping cough notifications were but one less than during the previous year and again there were no deaths. This continued lower incidence may well be due to the increasing number of children who are receiving inoculations against whooping cough. Although as yet there has still been no official guidance on the subject, results of investigations during the past years continue to show the real value of this procedure, especially in the case of young children where, if not completely protecting against the disease does modify a serious and perhaps fatal illness into a comparatively mild one.

YEAR	MEASLES		WHOOPIING COUGH	
	Number notified	Number of deaths	Number notified	Number of deaths
1950	353	—	233	—
1951	1173	1	287	1
1952	242	—	244	—
1953	1490	—	201	—
1954	128	—	200	—

### Scarlet Fever

The following table shows the incidence of scarlet fever over the past five years.

Year	No. of Cases notified	No. of Deaths
1950	32	—
1951	146	—
1952	169	—
1953	62	—
1954	62	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notified infectious diseases in Swindon during recent years is given in the following table:—

DISEASE	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Acute Pneumonia -	32	38	26	72	35
Acute Poliomyelitis -	13	5	2	11	6
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebrospinal Fever -	—	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria - -	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas - -	3	1	3	7	8
Dysentery, Food					
Poisoning - -	7	67	5	1	6
Measles - -	353	1,173	242	1,490	128
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	2	2	—	—
Typhoid and					
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia -	11	37	51	65	52
Scarlet Fever - -	32	146	169	62	62
Smallpox - -	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	84	64	49	101	50
Tuberculosis—					
non-pulmonary -	22	22	13	13	18
Whooping Cough -	233	287	244	201	200

### ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (including POLIOENCEPHALITIS)

During 1954, 6 cases were notified as compared with twelve the previous year. One was not confirmed and 5 were paralytic, there being no non-paralytic cases notified.

Two of the confirmed cases were adults and 3 were children aged 5-14 years.

1 death occurred in an adult.

In three of the cases evidence available pointed to the patient being infected whilst on holiday at the seaside, one of them being the fatal case.

All known contacts were advised on the precautions they should take and were kept under observation in case symptoms of the infection developed. No new cases occurred in Swindon that could be attributed to spread of the infection from any of the known cases.



A comparative table showing the incidence of poliomyelitis since 1945 is set out below.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED	NUMBER OF DEATHS
1945	2	1
1946	1	0
1947	8	1
1948	5	1
1949	5	0
1950	13	2
1951	5	0
1952	2	0
1953	11	2
1954	6	1

### Medical Examination of Corporation Staff.

During the year, the Medical Officers of this Department carried out the following examinations of Corporation staff:—

Candidates for entry into the Superannuation Scheme and transfer to the established list of employees	-	-	-	-	-	192
Candidates for Public Service Vehicle Licences-						39
Entrants to Training Colleges	-	-	-	-	-	28
Others	-	-	-	-	-	41
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>



## REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954

**To the Chairman and Members  
of the Public Health Committee**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report on work carried out under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector during the year 1954.

### STAFF

Mr. J. Fabel left the service of the Corporation in April and Mr. E. W. Knowles in June to take up other appointments. Mr. H. Phillips commenced duties in June and Mr. I. Jones in October. Mr. L. G. Hopes, who had been in charge of meat inspection at the Marlborough Lane slaughterhouse, secured another appointment, although he was still in the service of the Corporation at the end of the year. One vacancy remained unfilled throughout the year in spite of repeated advertisements. The frequent changes in staff are bound to affect the work of the department adversely, and the general shortage of Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country is a matter of serious concern. It is estimated that there is a shortage of approximately 500 inspectors at the present time, and the number qualifying each year is considerably below the numbers leaving the service.

Two student Inspectors, Messrs. T. C. Pope and R. Hayward, were appointed in October.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

108 samples of milk and 106 of other foodstuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Particulars of these samples will be found on page 35 of this report.

159 samples of milk were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination, details of which are on page 34.

The 42 samples of milk submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for biological examination were found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

Three firms were prosecuted during the year for offences under the Food and Drugs Act 1938. A fine of £3 was imposed for selling a meat pie containing a piece of rag, £5 and £2 costs for selling a loaf of bread containing weevils and £10 and £1 costs for selling a loaf of bread containing a screw.

## ICE CREAM

9 samples of ice cream submitted to the Public Analyst were found to comply with the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1953, which prescribes that ice cream should contain not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar and  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  milk solids other than fat.

9 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and were all graded in Grade 1. This shows a continued improvement in the bacteriological quality of ice cream sold within the Borough.

5 samples of ice lollies submitted for bacteriological examination were all found to be satisfactory.

## FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTIONS

989 inspections were made to premises where food is sold or prepared for sale. This is a considerable reduction in the number of visits compared with the previous year, and is entirely due to staff shortages. Practically all these premises have washing facilities, with hot and cold water laid on for the use of persons engaged in the handling of food.

## MEAT INSPECTION

In July meat rationing ceased, and the Ministry of Food is no longer responsible for the functioning of the new slaughterhouse erected in Marlborough Lane. The Corporation, through their agents (Messrs. W. Weddell and Co. Ltd.) are now responsible for the administration of the slaughterhouse, and the change-over from Government control to ordinary trading was accomplished without undue difficulty. The Marlborough Lane slaughterhouse is now a public one, and butchers in Swindon and district are entitled to send animals in for slaughter. The majority of the carcasses dressed at the slaughterhouse, however, are sent outside the Borough.

The tables and graph on pages 31 and 40 show that there was a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered and also a slight increase in the percentage of animals found affected with tuberculosis. Each animal is inspected at the time of slaughter, and with the 'line' system of dressing in operation it is necessary for two inspectors to be in attendance most of the time slaughtering is in progress. Slaughtering was done on twenty-eight Sundays during the year.

114 tons of meat were found to be unfit for human consumption.

## DRAINAGE WORK

The drains of 170 premises were relaid or overhauled during the year, under the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors.



## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

This Act, which came into force on the 30th August 1954, requires Local Authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within one year proposals for dealing with unfit houses within their area. Inspections are being made of the houses which are likely to be included in this return. The Act also permitted increases of rent in certain cases, provided that the houses were in a state of good repair. A tenant may apply to the Local Authority for a certificate of disrepair, and if one is granted the increased rent is not payable as long as the certificate of disrepair remains in force. Only one certificate had been applied for and granted up to the end of the year.

## HOUSING REPAIRS. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 AND HOUSING ACT 1936

Housing repairs were carried out at 392 houses during the year. One unfit house was closed but not demolished. Statutory Notices were served in respect of twelve other houses, and six statutory notices served in 1953 were outstanding at the beginning of the year under review. In fifteen houses the required repairs were carried out by the owners after service of statutory notices. In one case the Corporation carried out the work in default of the owner after applying to the Magistrates' Court for a Nuisance Abatement Order, at the cost of £43 which is recoverable from the owner. There were two statutory notices still outstanding at the end of the year.

## OVERCROWDING

The records of the department show that at the beginning of the year there were 15 cases of overcrowding outstanding from 1953, affecting  $103\frac{1}{2}$  persons. 8 new cases affecting  $55\frac{1}{2}$  persons were recorded and 11 cases affecting  $80\frac{1}{2}$  persons were abated in the year. This left 12 cases of overcrowding affecting  $78\frac{1}{2}$  persons outstanding at the close of the year. The overcrowding standard of the Housing Act is very low. For example,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  persons are permitted to occupy a four-roomed house which contains only two bedrooms without it being overcrowded. Any children under 10 years of age count as half-units.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There is now no Common Lodging House within the Borough. The Lodging House in Albert Street, which had been in existence for very many years and had been conducted by members of the same family, was closed down towards the end of the year.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Under this Act it is the responsibility of the local Authority to carry out the burial or cremation of any person who has died in their area, where no suitable arrangements have been made for the disposal of the body. During the year under review arrangement was made for the burial of four such persons.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The usual routine baiting of sewer manholes, which has been carried out every six months for the past eight years, still shows that there is considerable rat infestation in the sewers in the older parts of the Borough, but in the more recently constructed sewers there is little or no evidence of infestation. The Rodbourne Tip remains practically free from rats. In order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, disinfection of business properties is now charged for. Treatment was carried out at 47 business premises at a cost of £103 14 5d. which is recoverable from the occupiers.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

This Act requires the registration of premises where upholstery, including the stuffing or lining of bedding, toys etc., is being done, and requires that any rag flock or other filling material used on such premises shall comply with the standard of cleanliness prescribed in the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations 1951. The Act does not apply to premises where only the remaking or reconditioning of articles is carried on, and the fitting out of railway carriages is also exempt from the provisions of the Act. At the end of the year six premises were registered and five licences in force for the storage of rag flock; while four samples of filling materials were submitted to the Prescribed Analyst under the Act and were all found satisfactory.

In concluding my report I desire to thank all Officers of the Corporation for their assistance and ready co-operation throughout the year.

H. A. BANWELL.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS — 1954

Premises	Primary	
	Inspections	Revisits
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936</b>		
Dwelling-houses on complaint	629	447
Dwelling-houses no nuisances found	830	5
Other premises	105	42
Caravans	45	33
Marine Stores	3	4
Smoke observations	13	—
Stables and Piggeries	2	—
Theatres, Cinemas etc.	11	—
Public Sanitary Conveniences	1	—
Common Lodging Houses	4	—
Verminous premises	74	2
Drainage work under supervision	761	154
Infectious disease enquiries	88	1
Licensed premises	64	—
<b>HOUSING ACTS 1936 and 1949</b>		
Dwelling-houses on complaint	290	384
Houses inspected and recorded	211	20
Overcrowding	149	27
<b>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938</b>		
Bakehouses	31	7
Dairies	48	16
Milk samples—bacteriological	159	—
Milk samples—chemical	108	—
Milk samples—biological	42	—
Ice-cream samples—bacteriological	9	—
Ice-cream samples—chemical	9	—
Food and Drugs samples	97	—
Food samples—bacteriological	20	—
Water samples—bacteriological	37	—
Water samples—chemical	15	—
Water samples—from swimming baths	12	—
Water samples—sewage effluent	6	—
Ice-cream premises	25	3
Restaurants, cafes etc.	52	9
Fish shops and fish friers	27	1
Markets and food stalls	243	—
Food preparation and storage premises	107	13
Butchers' shops	73	13
Slaughterhouses	1017	—
Food shops	238	19
Licensed premises	59	5



FACTORIES ACT 1937

Factories—mechanical	-	-	-	154	31
Factories—non-mechanical	-	-	-	45	2
Outworkers	-	-	-	111	—

SHOPS ACT 1950, section 38	-	-	-	82	5
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RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING

MATERIALS ACT 1951	-	-	-	9	—
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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948	-	-	-	25	—
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PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

1949	-	-	-	275	145
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MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT 1926	-	-	-	29	—
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SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS 1947 and 1951:—

Hairdressers and Barbers	-	-	-	5	—
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Hawkers of Food	-	-	-	5	1
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MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	2823	7
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TOTALS				<u>9277</u>	<u>1396</u>
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**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 AND HOUSING ACTS  
1936 and 1949**

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**NUISANCES ABATED AND  
HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED**

Defective ceilings	-	-	-	-	-	60
„ walls	-	-	-	-	-	282
Damp walls	-	-	-	-	-	94
Dirty or verminous rooms	-	-	-	-	-	470
Defective floors	-	-	-	-	-	57
„ firegrates	-	-	-	-	-	21
„ windows	-	-	-	-	-	75
„ doors	-	-	-	-	-	23
„ stairs	-	-	-	-	-	4
„ coppers	-	-	-	-	-	2
„ sinks	-	-	-	-	-	6
New sinks provided	-	-	-	-	-	54
Water services provided or repaired	-	-	-	-	-	9
Defective chimneys	-	-	-	-	-	16
„ roofs	-	-	-	-	-	123
„ eaves-gutters and/or rainwater pipes	-	-	-	-	-	92
„ yard paving	-	-	-	-	-	5
„ forecourt paving	-	-	-	-	-	1
„ water-closets repaired	-	-	-	-	-	10
New pedestal pans fixed	-	-	-	-	-	89
Defective flushing-cisterns repaired	-	-	-	-	-	15
New flushing-cisterns fixed	-	-	-	-	-	51
Additional water-closets provided	-	-	-	-	-	45
Choked drains	-	-	-	-	-	79
Defective drains	-	-	-	-	-	170
„ traps	-	-	-	-	-	3
Drains tested	-	-	-	-	-	295
New baths fixed	-	-	-	-	-	44
Offensive accumulations removed	-	-	-	-	-	3
„ animals	-	-	-	-	-	—
Overcrowding abated	-	-	-	-	-	10
Dustbins provided	-	-	-	-	-	3
Food-stores provided or ventilated	-	-	-	-	-	—
Rent Books made to comply with the Housing Act	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	215
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>2427</b>

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924

**The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during 1954**

	Cattle		Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
	Cows	Others			
<b>TOTALS</b> -       -	2794	10970	479	31869	12928
<b>Disease other than Tuberculosis</b> Whole carcasses condemned       -	46	11	17	184	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned       -	1121	3438	2	3849	656
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis       -	42	31	4	12.6	5.2
<b>Tuberculosis only</b> Whole carcasses condemned       -       -	52	20	1	12	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned       -	536	794	—	1069	—
Approximate percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis       -	21	7.4	.2	3.3	—

### Unsound Food condemned by Sanitary Inspectors during 1954

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Unsound Meat and Offal	-	114	2	2	4
Other Unsound Food	-       -	6	1	3	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		120	4	2	3

**FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948**

1. The following table gives details of the inspections carried out during the year.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	78	47	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	196	185	11	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> - -	274	232	13	—

**OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)**

Number of Outworkers at August 1954:—

Making, cleaning etc., of wearing apparel	-	143
Making of receptacles of paper, cardboard etc.	-	4
Furniture and upholstery	- - -	2
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	-	1

**FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948—continued**

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1) - -	—	—	—	2	—
Overcrowding (s.2) -	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s.3) -	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s.4) - -	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6) -	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7) - -					
(a) insufficient -	—	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective -	24	16	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes - -	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork) - -	2	2	1	5	—
TOTALS - -	26	19	1	10	—



## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

On the Registers of the Department are:—

Dairies	-	-	-	-	-	17
Distributors of Milk	-	-	-	-	-	22

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) AND (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949

Licences in force within the Borough, issued by the Town Council of Swindon:—

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	-	-	15
Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	-	-	3
Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	-	-	12
Dealers' (Pasteurisers') licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	-	-	4
Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	-	-	2

Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Analyst or to the Pathological Laboratory, Gorse Hill.

Designation	No. of Samples taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Not satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested -	23	16	7
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) - -	77	71	6
Pasteurised - -	43	42	1
Accredited - -	9	6	3
Non-designated -	7	7	—
<b>TOTALS - -</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>17</b>

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

Premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food	-	-	63
Premises registered for the Manufacture, Sale or Storage of Ice-cream	-	-	247
Butchers' Shops	-	-	78
Wholesale Meat Stores	-	-	4
Fish Shops and Fish Friers	-	-	40
Bakehouses	-	-	20
Other Food Shops	-	-	492

### Samples submitted to the Public Analyst for Chemical Examination

Samples taken	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not genuine
Milk - - -	71	35	106	—
Ice-Cream - -	—	9	9	—
Cake Mixture - -	1	3	3	1
Sponge Mixture -	3	8	8	3
Pancake Mixture -	—	1	1	—
Cake and Bun Flour-	—	1	1	—
Corn Flour - -	—	1	1	—
Ice Lollies - -	—	5	5	—
Bread (sliced) -	1	—	—	1
Flour - - -	—	1	1	—
Pork Sausages - -	4	—	1	3
Beef Sausages - -	9	—	7	2
Pork Chippolatas -	1	—	1	—
Beef Chippolatas -	1	—	1	—
Butter - - -	10	—	10	—
Margarine - - -	14	—	14	—
Jam - - -	—	11	10	1
Sausage Seasoning -	—	1	1	—
Beef - - -	—	1	—	1
Whisky - - -	6	—	6	—
Gin - - -	5	—	5	—
Beer - - -	6	—	6	—
Rum - - -	3	—	3	—
<b>TOTALS - - -</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12</b>

### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947

#### Samples of Ice-cream submitted for bacteriological examination

Samples taken	Placed in Grade 1	Placed in Grade 2	Placed in Grade 3	Placed in Grade 4
9	9	—	—	—

As there is no statutory test for the bacteriological examination of ice-cream, the above samples are graded in accordance with the Advisory Bulletin of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service, 1947.

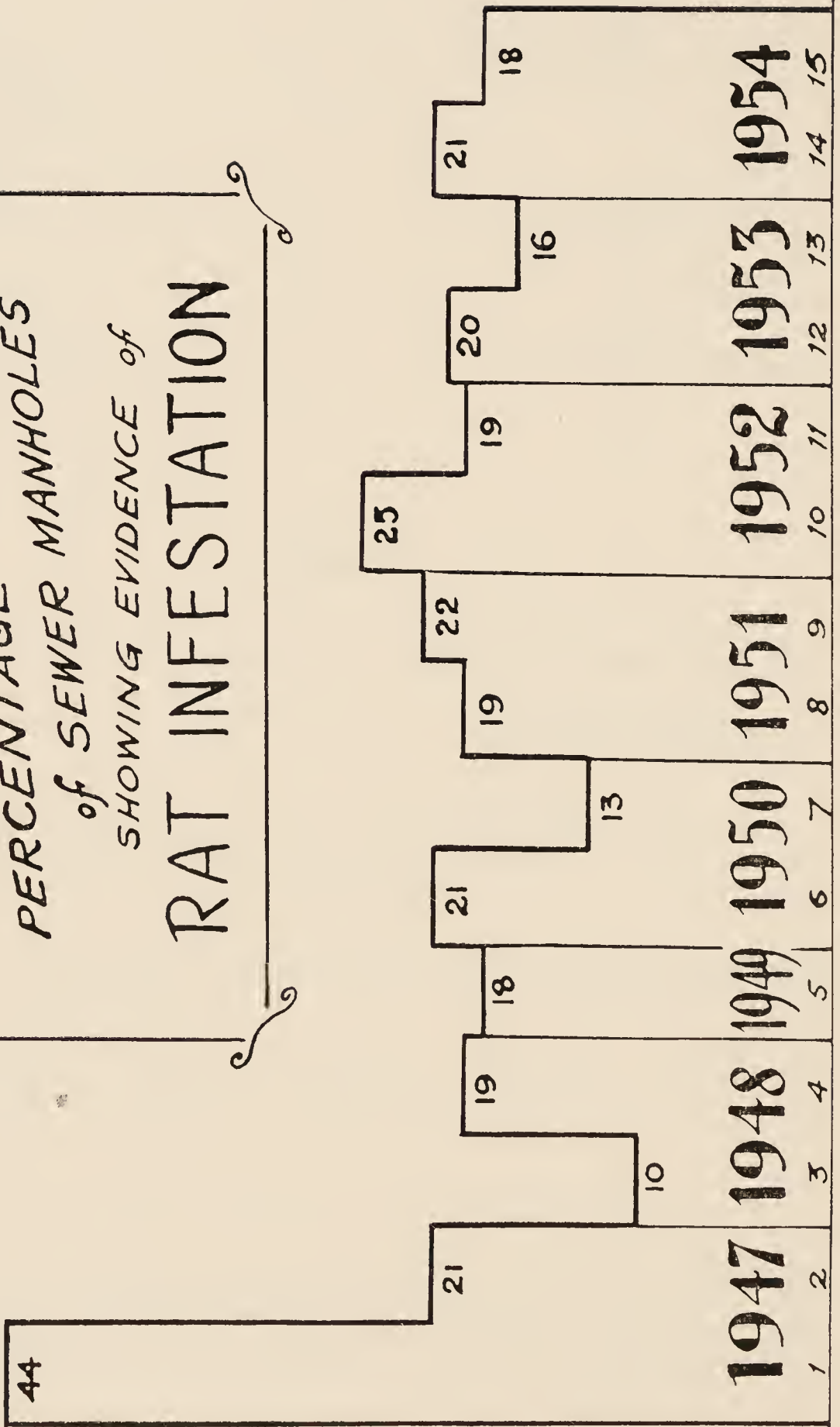
**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949****Premises baited in 1954**

<b>Type</b>					<b>Number</b>
Local Authority	-	-	-	-	29
Business	-	-	-	-	101
Dwelling-house	-	-	-	-	307
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	6
Sewer Manholes	-	-	-	-	2338

**Baiting**

Non-poisonous baits laid	-	-	-	1632
Poisonous baits laid	-	-	-	2721
„ „ taken	-	-	-	1280

RAT INFESTATION  
OF SEWERS  
PERCENTAGE  
of SEWER MANHOLES  
SHOWING EVIDENCE of  
RAT INFESTATION



TREATMENTS



**Matters requiring attention and remedied following inspection,  
in 1954**

Shops Act 1950	-	-	-	-	3
Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950	-	-	-	-	15
Food and Drugs Act 1938	-	-	-	-	36

## HOUSING STATISTICS

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 and HOUSING ACTS 1936 and 1949

Houses inspected	-	-	-	-	2109
„ found to be defective			-	-	401
„ rendered fit by informal action				-	392
„ „ „ formal „				-	13
Informal notices served	-	-	-	-	248
„ „ complied with				-	139
Statutory Notices, Public Health Act—					
Served	-	-	-	-	12
Complied with by owners				-	13
Complied with by Corporation in default of owners	-	-	-	-	1
Statutory Notices, Housing Acts—					
Served	-	-	-	-	—
Complied with by owners				-	—
Complied with by Corporation in default of owners	-	-	-	-	—

## HOUSING ACT 1936, section 58

## Overcrowding

Houses overcrowded at end of 1953	-	-	15
Number of persons affected	-	-	103½
New cases of overcrowding found in 1954	-	-	8
Number of persons affected	-	-	55½
Cases of overcrowding abated during 1954	-	-	11
Number of persons affected	-	-	80½
Cases of overcrowding not abated at end of 1954	-	-	12
Number of persons affected	-	-	78½

**DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PROPERTY**

Type of Property	No.of rooms Disinfested			
Council owned	-	-	-	209
Other property	-	-	-	286
Lots of bedding disinfested	-	-	-	107
Lots of bedding destroyed	-	-	-	8

After disinfestation has been carried out, periodical visits are made until complete disinfestation of the premises has been effected.

**DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Work carried out	Number Disinfected			
Rooms disinfected	-	-	-	182
Articles disinfected	-	-	-	8544
Library books disinfected	-	-	-	97
Bedding from hospitals disinfected	-	-	-	48
„ „ private premises disinfected	-	-	-	25
„ destroyed	-	-	-	22

**FREE DISINFECTANTS ISSUED**

Fluid — 130 pints

**COMMON LODGING HOUSE**

Number of Common Lodging Houses	-	-	1
Number of Persons for whom accommodation is provided—adults	-	-	87
children	-	-	4

**RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS  
ACT 1951**

Premises licensed to store Rag Flock	-	-	5
Premises registered	-	-	6

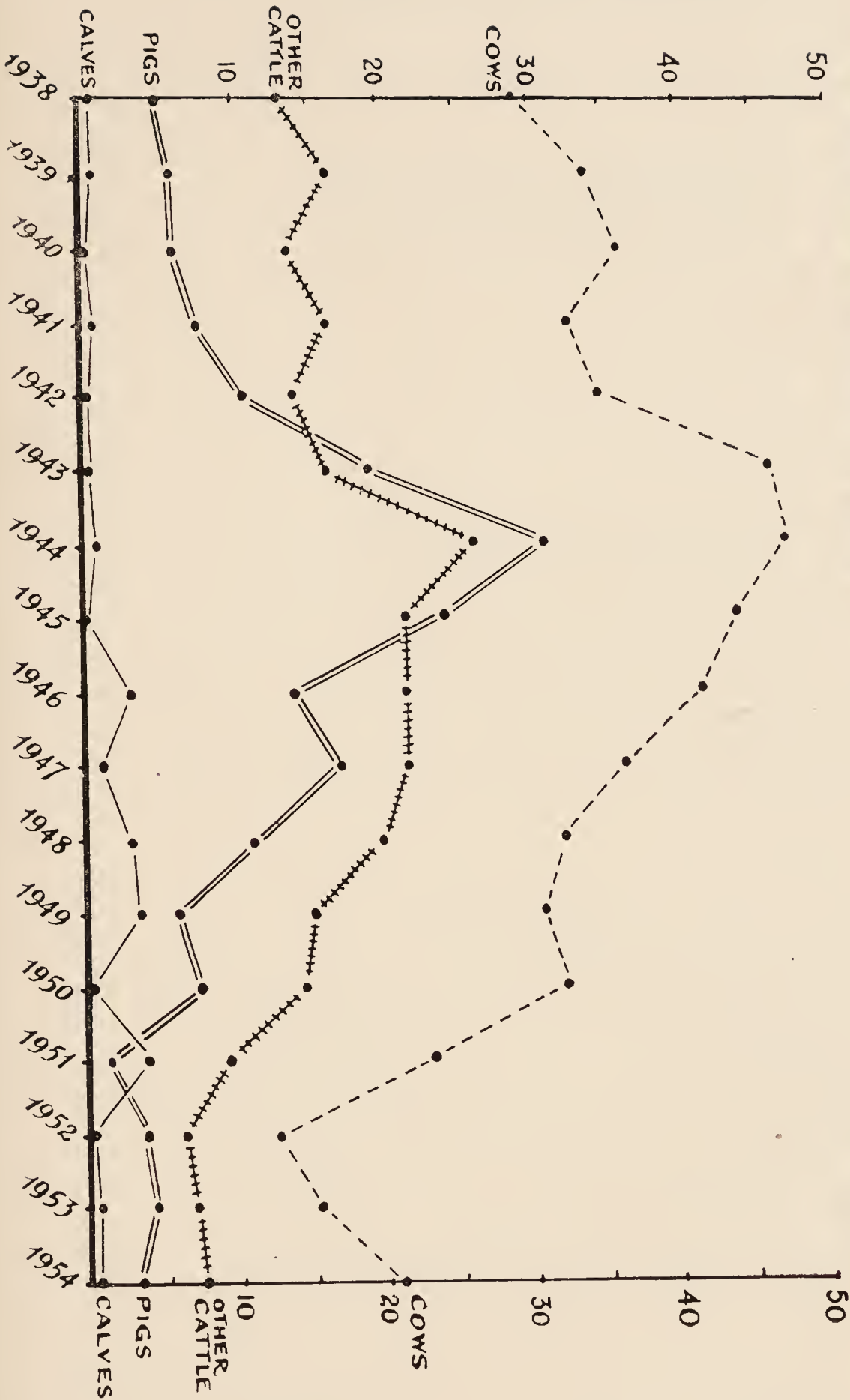
**SWINDON CORPORATION ACTS 1947 and 1951**

Premises registered as accommodation for food intended for sale from vehicles	-	-	16
Hawkers registered for the sale of food from vehicles	-	-	44
Hairdressers and Barbers	-	-	88

PERCENTAGE OF  
CATTLE AND PIG CARCASSES  
FOUND TO BE INFECTED WITH  
TUBERCULOSIS  
FROM 1938 TO 1954

CARCASSES · 1954  
COWS · · 2794  
OTHER CATTLE · 10970  
CALVES · 479  
PIGS · 31869

46112







## BOROUGH OF SWINDON



**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
as at 31st December, 1954

---

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
(Councillor ARTHUR MADGE BENNETT)

**Chairman:** Alderman R. G. CRIPPS

**Vice-Chairman:** Councillor L. J. NEWMAN

**MEMBERS**

Alderman H. DIMENT	Councillor J. G. GAY
„ H. W. GARDNER	„ Mrs. L. A. GRIFFIN
„ H. THORPE	„ D. JONES
Councillor F. E. BISHOP	„ H. G. LEWIS
„ G. BOND	„ C. S. MACPHERSON
„ H. BOND	Mr. F. W. HAWKSWORTH
„ A. J. BOWN	Mr. F. SMITH (N.U.T.)
„ Miss V. L. M. CARTER	Miss F. H. SHALLCROFT
„ A. W. J. DYMOND	Mrs. J. FRANCIS

W.C.C.

Dr. O. D. GILMORE

Mrs. C. ORMOND

Mr. F. M. TAYLOR

Mr. H. W. MOUNTFORD

**BOROUGH EDUCATION OFFICER**

Mr. G. JELLICOE, M.A. (Oxon)

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Education Committee of the Borough of Swindon.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1954 on the work of the School Health Service in Swindon.

The state of health and nutrition of the school children is generally good.

The percentage of children in need of treatment remained approximately the same but there was a small increase in defects of vision and a large decrease in ear, nose and throat defects.

The dental health of the children will remain a matter of deep concern until we have a full compliment of dental officers.

Throughout the year we had the part time services of one county dental officer and in May 1954 we were given the part-time services of a second County Dental Officer.

The success of the Spastic Unit is already an established fact but as yet the Ministry of Education has not granted its recognition as a Special School or class.

The work of the remedial gymnast, commenced this year, is proving most successful and parents are proving co-operative in this method of treatment of minor orthopaedic defects so helping to prevent defects of a more serious nature.

Preliminaries for the B.C.G. vaccination campaign against Tuberculosis have been started so that protection for school leavers can be offered to those needing it when arrangements have been completed in 1955.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**JAMES URQUHART.**

Principal Borough School Medical Officer.

CIVIC OFFICES,  
SWINDON.

## SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

A summary of the principal statistics for the year 1954 with comparable figures for 1953, is given below:—

	1953	1954
Number of primary and secondary school children on register (at 21st January, 1955) - - - -	11,200	11,593
Number of children examined at routine medical inspection - - - -	3,795	3,054
Number found to require treatment for diseases and defects - - - -	855	738
Number of dental inspections - - - -	Nil	2,287
Number referred for dental treatment - - - -	Nil	1,923
Number of children examined for part-time employment - - - -	111	135

### SCHOOL POPULATION

The estimated population of the Borough of Swindon at mid-year 1954 was 69760. There were at the end of 1954 a total of 11593 children on the registers of the primary and secondary schools of Swindon (including the Central Primary School). It will be noted that this is an increase of 393 over the school population at the end of 1953.

### STAFF

1. **Medical.** No change.
2. **Dental.** Mr. Randerson acted as a part-time dental surgeon for the whole year and Mr. Yates from May 1954. Equivalent to one full time dentist as from May.
3. **School Nurses.** Miss W. R. Burrows left on the 22nd August, 1954.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year, periodic medical examinations were carried out in accordance with the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations 1945. In addition to these periodic examinations, the practice of examining pupils on admission to the secondary grammar schools was continued.

The findings at medical inspection are given in the table on page 55.

The following gives the number of primary and secondary school children examined and the periodic age groups and the number found to be suffering from diseases and defects (excluding dental caries and uncleanliness) which required some form of treatment.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
No. of children examined	3,054	3,795	2,526	3,291	2,319
No. of children found to have defects - -	738	855	507	746	585
Percentage of children examined in need of treatment - .	24.1	22.5	20.0	22.6	25.3

Of the 3054 children examined at routine medical inspections, there were 363 (11.9%) defects of vision and 432 (14.1%) defects of ear, nose and throat.

## NUTRITIONAL STATE

Of the three categories relating to the general condition of a child, viz:—

A — Good

B — Fair

C — Poor

A table, showing the number and percentage of children placed in each of these three categories for each age group examined during 1954 and 1953 is given below:—



Age Group		No. of children Inspected	Category A		Category B		Category C	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1953	1,961	997	50.84	960	48.95	4	.2
	1954	1,086	488	44.93	592	54.51	6	.56
Second Age Group	1953	794	366	46.09	424	53.4	4	.5
	1954	919	514	55.93	393	42.76	12	1.31
Third Age Group	1953	597	350	58.63	241	40.37	6	1.0
	1954	994	612	61.56	379	38.13	3	.31
Other Periodic Inspections	1953	443	203	45.82	240	34.18	—	—
	1954	55	9	16.36	42	76.36	4	7.28
TOTAL	1953	3,795	1,916	50.49	1,865	49.14	14	.37
	1954	3,054	1,623	53.14	1,406	46.03	25	.83

**Comments:—**

There was a small increase in the percentage placed in Category A as compared with 1953, but a larger increase in those in Category C. It may well be that the latter is of no significance although it is possible that this increase is due to the importation of children from poor living conditions in London. It will be of interest to see whether this trend increases and whether these particular children at later inspections are reclassified in categories A or B.

**Cleanliness**

During 1954, the School Nurses carried out a total of 25893 inspections for uncleanness, and a total of 275 individual children were reported as infested.

**MINOR AILMENT CLINICS**

Minor Ailment clinics are held at the following places and times:

Eastcott Hill	Time	Dr. in attendance
Monday to Saturday inclusive	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.	Monday, Friday and Saturday
Pinehurst		
Monday to Friday inclusive	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.	Tuesday

In all, some 8301 attendances were made at these clinics during the year. There were 2784 consultations with doctor.

## OBSERVATION CLINICS

The practice of holding special observation clinics was continued. Children who are found at a periodic or special medical examination to have any defect which, while not severe enough for reference to a specialist, requires special observation, are seen at these clinics and reviewed.

During 1954, a total of 361 consultations were held at observation clinics.

## OTHER MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Special medical inspections and re-inspections were carried out on 1818 primary and secondary school children. The figures for 1953 and 1954 are as follows:—

			1953	1954
Number of inspections	-	-	1,413	1818
Number of re-inspections	-	-	1,585	1722

An analysis of the 1953 and 1954 figures is given below:—

			1953	1954
Number seen for skin conditions	-		920	1004
„ „ „ eye „	-		97	216
„ „ „ school accidents	-		39	36
„ „ „ ear defects	-		16	26
„ „ „ throat or nose defect			51	83
„ „ „ juvenile employment			111	135
Others	-	-	179	318
		TOTAL	1,413	1,818

## PLANTAR WARTS

During the past three years special investigations were made into the incidence of plantar warts. A summary of the results of the investigations was published last year. The special treatment clinics then established were continued during the year at which 170 children were treated. The incidence of new cases of plantar warts decreased steadily during the year.

## CONSULTANT CLINICS

The Consultant clinics in Swindon have been the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board since July 1948. Any child found on examination by a school medical officer to need hospital treatment or a consultant's opinion is referred to the appropriate clinic. In every case, the family doctor is notified of the intention to refer children to these clinics, and is given the opportunity to deal with the case himself if he so desires.

The only consultant clinic now held on Local Authority premises is the Ophthalmic Clinic at the School Clinic, Eastcott Hill.

**Ophthalmic Clinic.** Consultant clinics continue to be held at the school clinic, Eastcott Hill, with clerical and nursing staff provided by the Health Department. It was obvious however that the one clinic held for school children could not cope with the number referred to it and the waiting list was steadily growing. Representations to this effect were made to the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee and additional eye clinics were arranged at the Ophthalmic Department at the Great Western Hospital.

			1953	1954
Number of clinics held	-	-	77	89
Number of attendances	-	-	1,297	1,495

At the end of December 1954, the position was as follows:—

			1953	1954
Number of cases referred and not seen			50	201
Number of cases already seen and referred for re-examination:				
In three months	-	-	32	54
In six months	-	-	104	240
In one year	-	-	17	70

**Orthopaedic Clinic.** Since May 1950, the Orthopaedic Clinic has been run by the Regional Hospital Board at St. Margaret's hospital. 29 cases were referred during 1954 to the clinic by the School Medical Services as compared with 155 in 1953. As this department no longer arranges the appointments at this clinic, we have no actual knowledge of the total number of Swindon school children referred there from all sources. 157 Swindon School children were treated at these clinics during the year and the attendances were 333, at Surgeons' clinics and 68 at Sisters' clinics.

**Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.** 72 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers during 1954 as compared with 153 in 1953. There has been a definite improvement in the waiting period for consultation and operation.

**Paediatric Clinic.** 22 children were referred to this clinic by School Medical Officers in 1954 as compared with 62 in 1953. As in 1953, the children were seen with little delay, and full reports were sent by the consultant to the School Medical Officer. The consultant also sends us a report on any school child referred to him for consultation from other sources.

There has however been difficulty at times in obtaining follow-up reports, this unfortunately applying to all hospital specialists.



## SPECIAL CLINICS

**REMEDIAL EXERCISES.** Mr. W. D. Shields, M.S.R.G. the remedial gymnast commenced his duties on the 16th August.

By the end of December 1954, 103 children were being treated by him for minor orthopaedic defects. The scheme is working well with good co-operation between all concerned.

Number of children receiving treatment—

Infants	-	-	-	29
Junior	-	-	-	35
Sec. Mod. and Sec. Gram.	-	-	-	36
Central Primary	-	-	-	3
				103

Treatments at present are chiefly for flat foot, knock knees, postural defects and chest conditions including asthma.

Premises—

The children receive treatment at the school, which they are attending.

Record cards.

A report is made out periodically on the progress of each child.

In a number of instances the parent or guardian has been present during one session of treatment, and has seen the specific exercises which are likely to be of most benefit to the child.

**Child Guidance Clinic.** The Child Guidance Clinic set up by the Wiltshire County Council continued to hold regular sessions at 81 Bath Road, Swindon.

A report on the Child Guidance Service by Mr. H. R. Melrose, Educational Psychologist, is appended to this report.



## SPEECH THERAPY

The Speech Therapy service has been carried on throughout the year (4 sessions per week). Miss Ansell's resignation at the end of May was followed immediately by the appointment of Miss Montgomery, thus ensuring that there was no break in the continuity of the children's treatment.

Speech defects have been of the usual range, the most common being the various types of dyslalia (i.e. defects of articulation). Cleft palate cases have been few. Children have been treated either individually or in groups of up to five members, according to the needs of each child.

As in previous years, the Speech Therapist visited the Spastic Unit twice a week until in October the appointment of a Speech Therapist under the Swindon Hospital Board rendered it no longer necessary. In spite of the additional time thus made available for ordinary clinic routine, the waiting list remains very considerable—new referrals each month being equal to or exceeding the number of children admitted for treatment. By the end of the year, however, the waiting time had been reduced to six months.

In several cases children have been receiving treatment at the Child Guidance Clinic as well as attending for Speech therapy, and helpful co-operation has been given by the members of the Child Guidance Team.

Several school visits were made. Much useful information may be obtained from teachers, and often advice can be given by the Speech Therapist with regard to the handling of the speech-defective children in school.

No. of children (Boys 56 girls 22)	-	78
No. discharged	-	32
Number of attendances	-	519
School Visits	-	7
Homes visited	-	3

In addition, children from the surrounding County districts of Wootton Bassett, Wroughton, Stratton, etc. have attended the Clinic, and 30 boys and girls have received treatment during the year.

## HANDICAPPED PUPILS

1. Blind Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who have no sight or whose sight is or is likely to become so defective that they require education by methods not involving the use of sight).

One Swindon blind girl has been in a Special School for the blind at the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, since 1945. Two new pupils were assessed during 1954 and are waiting admission to a Special School for the blind.

2. Partially Sighted Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who by reason of defective vision cannot follow the normal regime of ordinary schools without detriment to their sight or to their educational development, but can be educated by special methods involving the use of sight). Two boys aged 11 years have been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since September 1952.

One boy aged 8 years has been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since January 1953.

One boy aged 6 years has been at the West of England School for Partially Sighted Pupils since September 1953.

One new pupil was assessed during 1954 and is awaiting admission to Special School for the Partially Sighted.

3. Deaf Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who have no hearing or whose hearing is so defective that they require education by methods used for deaf pupils without naturally acquiring speech or language).

One boy aged 8 years has been at Donnington Lodge Nursery School since January 1950.

One boy aged 6 years has been at Donnington Lodge Nursery School since May 1953.

One girl aged 13 years has been at Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby since April 1947.

One girl aged 12 years has been at Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby since September 1950.

One girl aged 8 years has been at Royal Institute for Deaf, Derby since September, 1953.

One Swindon child is still awaiting admission to a Special School for Deaf Pupils. No new pupils were assessed during 1954.

4. Partially Deaf Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who have some naturally acquired speech and language but whose hearing is so defective that they require for their education special arrangements or facilities though not necessarily all the educational methods used for deaf pupils). No child was ascertained as partially deaf during 1954 and there are none awaiting admission to a special school for partially deaf pupils.

5. Educationally Sub-normal Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who, by reason of limited ability or other conditions resulting in educational retardation, require some specialised form of education wholly or partly in substitution for the education normally given in ordinary schools).

During 1954, 41 new cases were examined and were grouped as follows:—

14 were recommended education in a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

12 were recommended special educational treatment in an ordinary school.

3 were recommended for a school or hostel for Maladjusted pupils.

11 were reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable.

1 was notified under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act 1944.

60 children already assessed as educationally sub-normal were re-examined during the year and the following recommendations were made:—

6 to be admitted to a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

22 to continue to receive education at a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal pupils.

1 was recommended for admission to a Residential School for Educationally Sub-normal Pupils.

2 were de-classified as no longer Educationally Sub-Normal.

19 to continue to receive special educational treatment in an ordinary school.

3 were recommended to return to the ordinary school system.

2 for friendly supervision of the Mental Health Authority after leaving school.

1 was notified under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act 1944.

4 were reported to the Local Health Authority as ineducable.



At the end of 1954, children assessed as educationally sub-normal were receiving special education as follows:—

Special Day School	-	72
„ Residential School	-	2
„ Ordinary Schools	-	52

6. Epileptic Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who by reason of epilepsy cannot be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools without detriment to themselves or other pupils).

One boy aged 11 was admitted to Lingfield Epileptic Colony November 1954.

7. Maladjusted Pupils, (that is to say, pupils who show evidence of emotional instability or psychological disturbance, and require special educational treatment in order to effect their personal, social or educational re-adjustment).

One boy aged 14 years has been at Cam House, Dursley, Gloucester since September 1953.

One boy aged 16 years has been at Finchden Manor, Tenterdon, Kent since April 1953

One boy aged 12 years was admitted to Southfield Hostel, Ilminster in July 1954

Three children were ascertained as maladjusted during 1954, two of whom are still awaiting places in a school or hostel for maladjusted pupils.

8. Physically Handicapped Pupils, (that is to say, pupils not suffering solely from a defect of sight or hearing who by reason of disease or crippling defect cannot, without detriment to their health or educational development, be satisfactorily educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools).

One girl aged 14 years has been at Dame Hannah Rogers School for Physically Handicapped since January 1950.

One boy aged 9 years was admitted to The Heritage Craft Schools and Hospital Chorley in January 1954.

Two children were receiving home tuition at the end of 1954.

Three children were attending at the Swindon Spastic Unit.

9. Pupils suffering from Speech Defect, (that is to say, pupils who on account of defect or lack of speech not due to deafness require special educational treatment). No children have been ascertained as handicapped on account of speech defect.



10. Delicate Pupils, (that is to say, pupils not falling under any other category in this Regulation, who by reason of impaired physical condition need a change of environment or cannot, without risk to their health or educational development, be educated under the normal regime of ordinary schools).

One girl aged 14 classified under this category has been a pupil at Hutton Residential School since January 1949.

### **SPASTIC PARALYSIS**

The Spastic Unit continued to function in the Regional Hospital Board's premises at the Physiotherapy Department, Community House, Faringdon Road.

At the end of 1954 there were 7 pupils on the roll, 3 being Swindon children and 4 from the surrounding areas. These children mostly attended for the whole day, 5 days a week.

The Ministry has still not granted recognition of this unit as a special school or class so that the children attending cannot obtain school meals at reduced prices, or school milk, which are at present being subsidised by the Swindon and District Hospital Management Committee.

The services of the Consultant in Physical Medicine, Dr. J. B. Stewart, and his staff, are available to the children attending the Unit. The Local Education Authority Speech Therapist attends for one session per week. It is hoped that in the coming year a speech therapist will be appointed for the Swindon and District Hospitals who will be able to devote several sessions per week in the Spastic Unit. The parents of the children attend voluntarily in rotation to help in the general management of the children.

In September 1954 the children were medically inspected by a school medical officer and in all cases a marked improvement in the children's condition was reported by the parents, especially as regards to speech, ability to relax and the use of their hands. Through the work of the unit the children have become easier to handle at home, have wider and deeper interests and are able to sleep and relax more easily.

## PHYSICAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN

### Milk in Schools Scheme.

The results of a survey taken on one day in October 1954 are as follows (figures in brackets represent a similar survey, taken on one day in October 1953).

Survey taken on one day in October 1954.

Total number primary children taking milk 6103, representing 84.9% of children attending school at the time. (5,951 representing 85.66%).

Total number secondary children taking milk 2686, representing 68% of children attending school at the time. (2543, representing 70.17%).

Total number Central Primary children taking milk, 50 representing 90.9% of children attending school at the time. (40 representing 74.7%).

Number of school departments supplied is 38

All milk supplied to schools is sampled at regular intervals, and any complaints regarding it are reported to the office for action.

### Meals in Schools.

I am indebted to the Education Officer for the following details of the numbers of school children having school meals.

	1953	1954
Number of school canteens -	25	25
Number of children taking meals -	1,975	2,132
Number of children taking free meals -	221	182

# **A RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954, WITH COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR 1953.**

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections No. of defects			Special Inspections No. of defects		
	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	1953	1954		1953	1954	
Skin -	35	43	83	406	409	2
Eyes:—						
a. Vision -	320	363	48	107	119	—
b. Squint -	79	48	2	6	—	1
c. Other -	13	9	15	99	97	—
Ears:—						
a. Hearing -	14	8	20	16	12	—
b. Otitis Media -	6	7	4	1	—	—
c. Other -	33	3	27	108	230	—
Nose or Throat -	193	57	435	180	199	—
Speech -	20	8	15	4	5	5
Cervical Glands -	6	26	119	45	63	3
Heart & Circulation -	14	6	130	7	6	3
Lungs -	65	26	130	13	8	8
Developmental:—						
a. Hernia -	9	5	1	1	2	3
b. Other -	12	7	51	15	5	5
Orthopaedic:—						
a. Posture -	13	30	35	—	1	1
b. Flat foot -	35	19	42	1	—	1
c. Other -	79	55	122	6	2	6
Nervous system:—						
a. Epilepsy -	10	1	4	3	2	2
b. Other -	3	3	22	15	8	11
Psychological:—						
a. Development -	11	4	4	6	6	—
b. Stability -	7	2	9	6	6	3
Other -	40	8	107	463	519	13



## CHILD GUIDANCE

The Child Guidance Service has held regular sessions on Thursday of each week at 81 Bath Road, Swindon, except for short breaks during part of the school holidays. Experience has shown that if these sessions are held during school holiday times, attendances by the children and their parents tend to be very irregular. The members of the Child Guidance team have been:—

Dr. K. C. P. Smith	—	Consultant Psychiatrist
Mr. H. R. Melrose	—	Educational Psychologist
Miss N. Comber	—	Social Worker
Mrs. M. Hardaker	—	Clerical Assistant

Miss Comber left in October to undertake the Mental Health Certificate course for a year at the London School of Economics, London University. It was not possible to replace her, owing to the heavy demand for trained social workers in so many fields.

As previously, County children living in Highworth, Stratton St. Margaret, Marlborough, Calne, Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury areas have also been seen at the Centre, but no reference is made to their numbers or disposal in this report.

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN REFERRED

As mentioned in last year's report, forty-six children (15 from 1952 and 31 from 1953) were carried forward to 1954 for further treatment or supervision. Of the 15 of 1952, 9 have been discharged as improved, 6 carried forward to 1955, and of the 31 from 1953, 24 have been discharged and 7 carried forward to 1955. Thus in all 13 children, originally seen in 1952 and 1953, will receive further treatment or supervision in 1955. These children are usually slow-developers or the parents are such that they respond to supportive interviews by the Psychiatrist or Psychologist.

In 1954, the Principal Borough School Medical Officer referred 33 new children to the Centre, all of whom were seen by the Psychologist, and whose homes were visited by the Social Worker, and 24 were passed on to the Consultant Psychiatrist. Of these 24, 4 were discharged as improved, 3 were considered as consultations only and 17 will be carried forward to 1955. The 9 children (33 less 24) not seen by the Psychiatrist were cases of educational sub-normality, or specific educational difficulties, requiring special educational treatment in either special or in ordinary schools. Three of these 9 will be attending the Centre again in 1955.

Thus, 13 children from 1952 and 1953, 17 and 3 from 1954, making a total of 33, will be carried forward to 1955.



During 1954 the Psychiatrist carried out 143 therapeutic interviews with children and their parents, usually their mothers. There have been 108 play therapy sessions under the observation of the Social Worker. The Psychologist has undertaken 81 interviews for the assessment of intelligence and educational attainments, with some subsequent remedial interviews.

It will be noted that less children were referred in 1954, and that the numbers are more comparable with the year 1951. It is perhaps significant that the same tendency is evident in the referrals of County children, as between 1954 and 1951, and whether this is a nation-wide feature, it is too early to speculate, until the necessary statistics are available.

### Children's Problems

The problems for which the 33 new children were referred are summarised under the following headings and may be compared with previous years:—

	1954	1953	1952	1951
1. Nervous Disorders - - -	2	1	6	2
2. Habit Disorders and Physical Symptoms	9	22	17	9
3. Behaviour Disorders - -	13	13	14	19
4. Educational and Vocational Difficulties	9	14	10	5
	33	50	47	35

There has been a drop this year in the number of children under Habit Disorders, and this seems due to the fact that less children with speech defects have been referred, and may also be indirectly due to the appointment in Swindon of a Speech Therapist under the Hospital Authority.

### Ages of Children

The distribution of the ages of the 33 children referred is as follows, together with the ages for previous years:—

Ages	2 yrs. & under	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 & over	Total	Year
Children	0	1	4	2	7	3	2	4	2	4	0	0	2	2	0	33	1954
Children	0	1	1	4	5	3	5	10	4	4	2	4	6	1	0	50	1953
Children	1	1	0	3	2	3	8	6	9	4	2	3	3	2	0	47	1952
Children	1	2	2	1	3	0	1	4	3	7	2	4	3	2	0	35	1951

This year the 6-year-olds predominated, an age when often a child has not settled too well to school routine.

### Intelligence of Children

The distribution of intelligence of the 33 children referred is:—

I.Q.	Below Average			Average		Above Average			Total	Year
	54 & below	55-70	71-85	86-100	101-115	116-130	131-145	145 & over		
Children	1	5	4	14	7	1	1	0	33	1954
„	2	3	8	11	15	8	3	0	50	1953
„	1	2	10	9	17	7	1	0	47	1952
„	1	4	8	9	8	5	0	0	35	1951
Percentage	3	15	12	43	21	3	3	0	100	1954
„	4	6	16	22	30	16	6	0	100	1953
„	2	4	21	20	36	15	2	0	100	1952
„	3	11	23	26	23	14	0	0	100	1951

Below Average	Average	Above average		
30%	64%	6%	—	1954
26%	52%	22%	—	1953
27%	56%	17%	—	1952
37%	49%	14%	—	1951

The increasing tendency noted last year to refer children of above average intelligence has not been maintained, and the percentages are more comparable with the figures for 1951. The below average group comprises those who primarily require some form of special educational treatment.

### Conclusion

The thanks of the Child Guidance Team are due to Dr. James Urquhart, Principal Borough School Medical Officer, and his staff, and to all the Head Teachers in the Borough, for their kind assistance and co-operation.

### SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES

There was for 1954 no full time dental surgeon on the staff. Mr. Randerson continued in his part-time capacity and the part-time services of Mr. Yates were obtained from May 1954, by arrangement with the County Medical Officer.

A limited number of periodic dental inspections were possible.

### DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1954.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officer:—				
(a) At Periodic Inspections	-	-	-	858
(b) As Specials	-	-	-	1429
				<hr/>
			Total (1)	2287
				<hr/>

(2) Number found to require treatment	-	-	1923
(3) Number offered treatment	-	-	1923
(4) Number actually treated	-	-	1382
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	-	-	2448
(6) Half days devoted to: Periodic Inspection	-	-	4
Treatment	-	-	364
Total (6)			368
(7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth	-	-	923
Temporary Teeth	-	-	28
Total (7)			951
(8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	-	-	871
Temporary Teeth	-	-	24
Total (8)			895
(9) Extractions: Permanent Teeth	-	-	361
Temporary Teeth	-	-	1494
Total (9)			1855
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction			718
(11) Other operations: Permanent Teeth	-	-	452
Temporary Teeth	-	-	29
Total (11)			481

### PROTECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

No children were examined by the Mass Radiography unit during 1954. Arrangements to vaccinate children of the age group 13-14 years against Tuberculosis using B.C.G. were started and it is hoped to commence the scheme next year.

### **MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF ENTRANTS TO COURSES OF TRAINING FOR TEACHING AND TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

In accordance with Ministry of Education Circular 249, candidates applying for admission to training colleges are examined by the School Medical Officers of the areas where they live.

During 1954 28 examinations of such candidates were carried out by the School Medical Officers in Swindon.

### **THE CHILDREN ACT 1948**

Boarded-out children attending school in the Borough are examined annually by the School Medical Officers as required by the Act.

During 1954, 30 such examinations were made.

### **SCHOOL PREMISES**

School premises, including school meal kitchens, are inspected by the Medical Officers at the conclusion of routine medical inspections. Any defects noted are reported to the Education Committee.



## **REPORT OF THE AREA MEDICAL OFFICER**

I have pleasure in submitting the report of the Area Medical Officer for the year 1954.

This report deals exclusively with the services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946 which have been delegated to the Swindon Area Sub-Committee.

During the year under review the first real impact of the Swindon expansion programme has made itself felt on the Local Health Authority's services. By the 31st December some 254 families comprising 880 persons had come to the Penhill estate which then housed a total of 4,200 in 1,340 houses. Almost all the families housed in the estate have young children so it can be readily appreciated that this estate alone called for considerable extension of the services provided.

As the town continues to expand the needs of the population in respect of Local Health Authority services have to be anticipated and provision made to cope with the demand as it arises.

## **CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

This subject is one which continues to receive a great deal of attention both locally and nationally.

In Swindon I consider that much has been achieved towards co-operation both with other branches of the health services and with all the other social services which have a bearing on the health and welfare of the population. There is, however, much that could still be done towards providing a comprehensive and co-ordinated medical and social service. One of the practical difficulties is in the division of responsibility for the various services which frequently leads to each branch assuming that the matter has been dealt with by another branch. Misunderstanding and duplication even crop up within the branches themselves. In this respect I consider that a more efficient and economical method of providing local authorities' services could be achieved by a combination of departments rather than with several as is now the rule.

Again I find that although there are formal schemes of co-operation in being, personal contact ensures a better understanding and working of such schemes. Unfortunately there are such frequent changes of personnel in all branches of the National Health Service that continuity of personal contact is difficult to achieve. It would be most helpful therefore if when an officer is moving from one post to another he ensures that his successor is personally introduced to those with whom he has to have liaison.

During the year the general practitioners have been encouraged to maintain a closer relationship with health visitors and there is evidence of improvement in this respect. In Swindon most medical practitioners have patients in every quarter of the town and it is therefore virtually impossible to allocate health visitors to work with individual doctors or groups of doctors.

Liaison between the hospitals and the Local Authority has remained good throughout the year and after discussion with the hospital authorities concerned additional hospital eye clinics for school children were arranged. These special clinics have almost eliminated the waiting list for eye consultations.

### **JOINT USE OF STAFF**

The only hospital clinics now held in Local Health Authority clinics in Swindon are the eye clinics for premature babies and children up to school leaving age.

A general practitioner attends a weekly ante-natal clinic while another is attended by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health. If for any reason either of these doctors is unable to attend the Consultant Obstetrician, Dr. C. G. Roworth, has always made the services of one of the resident medical officers available.

Hospital medical officers, general practitioners and student nurses have been granted permission to attend for instructional purposes at Local Health Authority clinics.

Local Authority medical officers, health visitors and midwives have given lectures and practical instruction to hospital student nurses.

### **CARE OF OLD PEOPLE**

The Old People's Welfare Committee has now been functioning for three years and is doing very valuable work among the old people of the community. This committee is clerked by the Swindon Borough staff and close liaison is maintained on officer level between them and the Area staff. Many cases where our help is needed are brought to our notice through the voluntary visitors to old people.

Although it is difficult to estimate the number of old people in Swindon the 1951 census figures were as follows:—

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
55—64	3,200	3,500
65 and over	3,400	4,200

It is safe to estimate that the number of old people now in the town is somewhat greater than the figures given above suggest.



In all cases where we are called upon to help old people, a health visitor makes a report on the household and the needs of the occupants. This report covers the conditions of the house furnishing, heating, lighting etc., and a personal assessment of the physical condition of the old people and services needed by them. Action is taken to implement the recommendations and thereafter the health visitor pays regular visits to the house. It is only in extremely rare instances we find that the old people concerned do not welcome these friendly and helpful visits.

There is no doubt that the service most frequently needed in the care of old people is the Domestic Help Service. The demands on this service continue to grow year by year and in Swindon, where so far there has been no difficulty in recruitment of helps, finance is the factor which limits the extent of the service. Maternity cases are given priority for domestic help and are supplied with whole-time help when required. Other cases are given as much help as can be made available according to needs. It is, however, regretted that at times it is impossible to supply any help to necessitous cases and less than the minimum assessed to most of the others except maternity cases.

During the year the laundry service for old people covered 40 cases. It will be remembered that this service is supplied at reduced costs to old people by a local commercial laundry only by the recommendation of the health department. Although the laundry concerned wishes to remain anonymous, a debt of gratitude is due to it for the service provided.

Of the voluntary organisations which join in the care of the aged, tribute must be paid to the W.V.S. for their good work. During the year they have provided a "Meals on Wheels Service" which supplied 1,276 meals to 20 people. It is hoped to extend this service as soon as circumstances permit.

The need for a chiropody service for old people has been recognised by the Old People's Welfare Committee, who during the past two years have had arrangements with a local chiropodist to supply treatment for old people at reduced fees, and in a small number of necessitous cases the Committee has paid for the treatment provided. Negotiations are in hand to extend the service through Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946 and it is hoped that during the coming year these negotiations will come to fruition.

Advice and instructions to the aged in simple remedial exercises which they can practise at home is given by the health visitors who were given a course of training under Dr. J. B. Stewart, the Consultant in Physical Medicine.

## CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Number of premature babies born:—

(i) At home	-	-	-	-	27
(ii) In hospital or nursing home	-	-	-	-	66

Number who died during the first 24 hours:—

(i) Born at home	-	-	-	-	2
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home	-	-	-	-	4

Number who survived at end of one month:—

(i) Born at home	-	-	-	-	25
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home	-	-	-	-	61

## WELFARE FOODS

Since July 1954 the distribution of foods, vitamin preparations and other items has been carried out at the Health Centre and all infant welfare clinics. The extent of this work, formerly carried on by the Ministry of Food, can be gauged from the following table:—

	Health Centre	Clinics
National Dried Milk	18,944 tins	11,338 tins
Cod Liver Oil	2,420 bottles	1,968 bottles
Vitamin Tablets	1,145 packets	552 packets
Orange Juice	14,630 bottles	8,580 bottles

## SUPPLY OF PROPRIETARY DRIED MILKS ETC.

A member of our clerical staff attends at the child welfare clinics and among her other duties is the sale of dried milks and nutrients. During the year there were 6,013 such sales, for which £771 9s. 4d. was received.

## DENTAL CARE

The position at the beginning of 1954 regarding the provision of dental officers remained the same as in 1953. Swindon continues to have the services of a dental officer from another part of the County on a part-time basis. However, in May it was possible to add another dentist from the County staff for additional sessions. As a result of this during the latter half of the year we had the equivalent of one whole-time officer. As this is one third of the Swindon establishment it can be seen that dental work in Swindon among school children, maternity cases and children under 5 years could not be carried out on a scale which we would desire.

## DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

An increase in the establishment of domiciliary midwives from six to eight was authorised as from April 1st, 1954 and we were fortunate enough to recruit up to full establishment,



All eight midwives are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. As mentioned elsewhere it is hoped to equip and train these midwives in trilene analgesia during the coming year.

Of the eight midwives employed at the end of the year, six were approved as teachers of pupil midwives.

The scheme for training pupils from Swindon Maternity Hospital and Bradford-on-Avon Maternity Hospital continued; during the year 12 pupils were trained and at the end of the year two were still undergoing training.

The regular visits of Miss Bell, non-medical Supervisor of Midwives, are greatly appreciated both by the nursing and clerical staffs of Swindon Area.

During the year there were no domiciliary midwives in private practice in the town.

The housing of domiciliary midwives presents constant problems but it is hoped that early in 1955 the two flats for nursing staff at Penhill will be completed and help to save the situation.

The domiciliary midwives hold booking clinics as follows:—

81 Bath Road—2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at 6 p.m.

Pinehurst Clinic—Every Thursday at 2 p.m.

In addition they attend the ante-natal clinics held at Pinehurst on Mondays and Fridays and carry out domiciliary ante-natal care.

All midwives are aware of the procedure for summoning the hospital "Flying Squad" or medical aid in emergencies. During the year medical aid was summoned in 179 instances.

The scheme of co-operation between the Maternity Hospital and the Local Health Authority in respect of cases desiring admission to hospital for social reasons continues to work most satisfactorily.

Investigations of social circumstances are made by the health visitors and on the reports so made the Area Medical Officer makes his recommendations to the Consulting Obstetrician.

During the year 345 of such investigations were carried out.

The table on page 71 summarises the work done by the domiciliary midwives during the year.

### HEALTH VISITORS

The establishment of health visitors for Swindon is one senior and nine others. During the year we were one short of establishment and the vacant post which has been advertised many times since 1952 did not attract a single applicant. The senior health visitor, Miss Burrows, terminated her duties on 22/8/54 and up to the end of the year there have been no applicants for this post in spite of repeated advertisements.

As all the health visitors act as school nurses for half of their time, our full establishment is the equivalent of one health visitor for approximately 15,000 population although the position at the end of the year was one health visitor to approximately 19,000 population.

Even with our full establishment of health visitors and especially in view of the fact that under the expansion programme Swindon is rapidly increasing its population, this establishment is too low. It is hoped therefore that during the coming year authority will be granted for an increase in establishment and that applicants will be attracted for the posts advertised.

There is a shortage of health visitors throughout the country and since the salaries and conditions of service are more or less standardised there is little to induce a health visitor to change her employing authority except for promotion or personal reasons. It thus boils down to authorities competing against one another for the services of the available health visitors by the offer of inducements in the way of housing, car allowances, etc. It would appear therefore that, if the health visiting service is to develop and function in accordance with modern concepts, the problem of recruitment and training will have to be solved quickly at national level.

Since the inception of the National Health Service Act the scope of the health visitors' duties has continued to extend and unless the number of staff increases to cope with these additional duties some other part of their work will have to suffer. In Swindon during the last few years there have been extensions of the health visitors' duties. For example, the general practitioners have been encouraged to make use of the health visiting service and if such services cannot be immediately supplied when called for, confidence in the service is lost. It will be understood therefore that it is only by the exercise of constant supervision of health visitors' timetables to allow for flexibility in their working that the optimum use and economy in the services is effected.

The health visitors attend at all the infant welfare clinics as well as the special hospital eye clinics held on County Council premises. In two instances they run child welfare clinics where no doctor attends. During the year a health visitor has attended at the Chest Clinic in Milton Road each Thursday and at the Artificial Pneumothorax Clinic at St. Margaret's Hospital on Mondays.

In January the health visitors completed a short course of training in remedial exercises for the aged under the direction of Dr. J. B. Stewart, Consultant in Physical Medicine. This training has enabled the health visitors to advise and instruct old people in their homes.

## **VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION**

Facilities for vaccination and immunisation continue to be provided as in the past. As well as weekly and fortnightly special clinics, both immunisation and vaccination facilities are available at child welfare clinics where a doctor is in attendance.

During the year there was no interruption in the scheme because of poliomyelitis.



Towards the end of the year plans for starting B.C.G. vaccination of school children in the 13-14 year old age group were well advanced and it was hoped that these clinics would commence early in the new year.

It is also hoped that during next year the Ministry of Health will give permission for immunisation with a combined whooping cough and diphtheria antigen.

The tables given below summarise the vaccination and immunisation carried out during the year.

		Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	-	315	49	37	38	439
Re-Vaccination	-	—	3	16	129	148
TOTALS	- -	315	52	53	167	587

Immunisation				1954	1953
Number of clinics held	-	-	-	68	49
Number of attendances	-	-	-	1,171	909
Number of children who have completed course	-	-	-	587	418
Number of children immunised by general practitioners	-	-	-	387	175
Total number immunised	-	-	-	974	593
Re-inforcing injections, including general practitioners	-	-	-	172	51

## PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER CARE

The scheme for prevention, care and after care in Swindon is similar to that for the county as a whole.

During the year, the requests for convalescent holidays increased from 14 in 1953 to 22 in 1954, and in order to keep within the expenditure budgeted for and to give the maximum number of holidays it was necessary in many instances to cut down the length of the convalescent period recommended.

It was found that in some cases those recommended for a convalescent holiday by a general practitioner were not aware that they had to pay travelling expenses to and from the holiday home. This information was circulated to the practitioners so that before putting in a recommendation they could ascertain whether or not the patient was capable of meeting this expenditure.

Other schemes of prevention, care and after care are referred to under the various headings in this report.

## DOMESTIC HELP

The domestic help service continues to provide most useful and appreciated service to the community. Each year since it was established the calls for the service continues to increase and as the expectation of life increases so will there be still greater demands for home helps. In Swindon we have been fortunate in that the number of recruits to the service has been adequate for the money made available for it. Swindon is a rapidly expanding town and as the population grows so will the expenditure on the domestic help service have to increase if the service is even to be maintained at its present level.

Maternity cases are given priority for domestic help and are afforded whole-time service. Thus the help available for all other cases does to a large extent depend on the number of maternity cases on hand. As far as possible the helps are distributed among other cases according to need. It does, however, frequently happen that during certain times of the year the demands on the service cannot be met and certain applicants for the service just cannot be supplied.

Number of domestic helps on books at the end					
of the year	-	-	-	-	35
Number of householders helped during the year:—					
(a) Maternity cases	-	-	-	-	92
(b) Other cases	-	-	-	-	228
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320</b>

Number of hours of assistance provided during the year:—					
(a) Maternity cases	-	-	-	-	9,483
(b) Other cases	-	-	-	-	48,089
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,572</b>

Number of cases in which full fee was not charged	292
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## HEALTH CENTRE

### Dental Department

Dental Surgeons	-	2	Dental Attendants	-	2
Dental Technicians	-	4	Dental Receptionist	-	1

During the year there were 11,793 attendances for treatment and the following work was carried out:—



Scalings	FILLINGS		Extrac- tions	X-rays	DENTURES		Treat- ments
	Amal- gams	Synthetic			Repairs	Manu- factured	
204	3,429	294	2,105	599	698	643	5,408

### Pharmacy

The Pharmacy dealt with 124,321 prescriptions during the year.

## CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS

### Ante and Post Natal Clinics

Clinics at which a doctor is in attendance are held weekly as follows:—

Beech Avenue	Mondays and Fridays	1-30 to 4 p.m.
Bath Road	Mondays	1-30 to 4 p.m.

1954    1953    1952

Number of women who attended these clinics

during the period                      -                      -                      -                      592                      752                      731

Number of attendances made during the period    2,863    3,439    3,078

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

The Table below gives the list of clinics held and the attendances made:—

Centre	Day and Time 2 — 4 p.m.	Number of consulta- tions with doctor	Number of attend- ances
61 Eastcott Hill ...	Wednesday & Friday	1,626	3,979
Beech Avenue, Pinehurst	Tuesday	484	3,037
Gorse Hill ... ..	Wednesday	—	1,961
Moredon ... ..	Monday	—	1,464
Bath Road ... ..	Friday	610	1,803
Penhill ... ..	Thursday	170	952

The premises at Penhill Farmhouse became available in July 1954, and a weekly child welfare session at which a doctor attends has been held there since then. This clinic relieved the pressure on the Pinehurst clinic so the Wednesday afternoon clinic there was discontinued.

The premises at the Penhill farmhouse are not altogether satisfactory, principally because the rooms have proved too small to accommodate the numbers attending. It is hoped therefore that, when a community centre is built in the estate, provision will be made for clinic purposes.

### DAY NURSERY

The limited capacity of the present day nursery which is housed in the Gorse Hill Community Centre has not caused any embarrassment during the year, but there have been occasions when staffing has been difficult. The numerical relationship of staff to children (one to five) produces an establishment which in normal circumstances is adequate but in the event of casualties through illness, holidays or other causes, a staff of four cannot be reduced without causing difficulties.

During the year the day nursery staff became responsible for preparing all meals for the children. This has effected some saving in expenditure and, what is more important, has produced meals which are more suitable for children of this age.

	Number of Nurseries	Number of Approved Places	No. of children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance	
			0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Nurseries maintained by the Council ...	1	25	4	14	3	12

### FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

The Family Planning Association continues to hold clinics at Eastcott Hill clinic weekly.

### TREATMENT OF INFANTS FOR ORTHOPAEDIC AND OPHTHALMIC DEFECTS

4 children were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic at St. Margaret's Hospital.

17 cases attended the Surgeons' sessions and made 61 attendances.

3 cases attended the Sisters' sessions and made 11 attendances.

28 children were seen by the Ophthalmologist, making 115 attendances.

27 cases attended the Premature Baby Eye Clinic and made 106 attendances.

### MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The following is an analysis of the midwifery carried out in the area during the year:—

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING  
THE YEAR

Domiciliary Cases						Cases in Institutions
Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals		
Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child			
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ... ..	—	3	75	372	450	—
(b) Midwives employed by voluntary organisations:—						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by hospital management committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	807
(d) Midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in nursing homes) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	179



## ADMINISTRATION OF GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA

All eight of the midwives are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. During their pregnancy patients are given demonstrations of the apparatus so that when the confinement comes they are familiar with it and thereby any fear or apprehension from its use are obviated.

It is hoped that in the coming year trilene anaesthesia will be introduced in place of gas and air.

Analgesia with gas and air was administered in 332 cases where the midwife acted as such and in 66 cases where the midwife acted as maternity nurse, making a total of 398 administrations in 450 cases.

## MIDWIVES ACT, 1951

Medical aid was summoned in 179 domiciliary cases during the year.

## HEALTH VISITING

Numbers of visits paid by Health Visitors (figures for 1953 in brackets):—

Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 & 5	Other Classes
First visits	Total visits	First visits	Total visits	Total visits	Total visits
331 (353)	345 (374)	1,067 (1,105)	3,464 (3,305)	3,015 (3,288)	1,780 (2,243)

Number of live births to Swindon residents during the  
year - - - - - 1,419 (1,148)

Number of stillbirths to Swindon residents during the  
year - - - - - 34 (24)

Included in "Other Classes" in this table are 63 (669) visits to cases of infectious diseases and 393 (409) visits to cases of tuberculosis.

## HOME NURSING

### Details of Work Carried Out by Home Nurses

	No. of Cases
Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis)	171
Digestive diseases	73
Heart and Arteries	111
Veins and other circulatory diseases	44
Genito-urinary	102
Skin	183
Ear, Eye and other sense organs	84
Cancer (and other neoplasms)	53
Cerebral lesions of vascular origin	44
Infectious and parasitic diseases	243
Diabetes	29
Injuries	33
Tuberculosis	23
Bones and organs of movement (mainly rheumatism)	39
Pregnancy	37
Mental and other nervous diseases	3
Other diseases or ill defined	204
Preparation for X-ray examination	61
Total number of cases	1,537, in
respect of which a total of 20,996 visits were made.	

### PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS

The Medical Loan Depot housed at the Health Centre continues to have heavy demands made on it for home nursing equipment. It will be seen from the appended table what stocks of equipment are held and the issues during the year.

In the summer months especially there is a great demand for invalid chairs and this year the stock of chairs was increased by six to cope with this demand. In most cases the chairs are for short-term cases and where it is noticed that a particular person hires a chair for long periods enquiries are made to assess the need for the patient to apply through the National Health Service for a personal invalid chair.

	On Payment	On Free Loan	Stock at 31/12/54	Renewals
Invalid chairs -	57	—	34	6
Air Rings -	95	1	33	5
Waterproof Sheets -	167	1	55	5
Bed Pans -	171	1	63	24
Bed Rests -	83	3	27	3
Bed Slippers -	36	1	10	—
Crutches (pairs) -	15	1	32	—
Urinals -	42	—	16	—
Air Beds -	4	—	8	—
Bed Cradles -	11	—	10	2
Bed Tables -	—	—	5	—
Mattresses -	2	—	2	—
Inhalers -	—	—	1	—
Walking Sticks -	3	—	3	—
Feeding Cups -	9	—	19	—
Diet Spring Balances	—	—	3	—
Electric Blankets -	—	—	1	—
Rubber Bed Pans -	—	—	2	—
Hot Water Bottles -	—	—	19	—

				£	s.	d.
Hire payments received on appliances during year ended 31/12/54	-	-	-	88	1	5
Hire payments received on appliances during year ended 31/12/53	-	-	-	85	19	9

JAMES URQUHART.









